

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: August 6, 2015

Agenda Item: 2015 Bison Quotas

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background

While the bison hunting season structure was addressed during biennial season setting in February, license quotas can be changed through a proposal at the June meeting, public comment, and Fish & Wildlife Commission action at the August meeting.

For the 2015 bison hunting season, FWP is proposing no changes from the 2014 bison license numbers. These quotas include an offer of two licenses to each of eight Native American tribes statutorily listed to receive the licenses for a total of 16 licenses. If those licenses are not claimed by the tribes entitled to them they are issued through the regular bison drawing.

Public Involvement Process & Results

The public comment period for this proposal ran through 5 p.m., Monday, July 13. Of the nine comments received, seven disagreed with the proposal and two agreed. Most comments spoke to wanting more tags and to tribal harvest, perhaps not realizing that there is statute regarding the latter.

Alternatives and Analysis

Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, deletions, or no change from 2014 (status quo).

Proposed Motion

I move the Commission adopt the 2015 - 2016 bison license quotas as presented by FWP.